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DAILY NEWS DIARY

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FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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GS-2

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) “India must have a clear economic and trade agenda in the Indo-Pacific region.” Discuss.

Context:

As the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific is changing fast, the region will carry the imprint of the past five years and will have to chart a course through inter-state tensions and crises, using both diplomacy and military preparedness.



The geopolitics in Indo-Pacific:

- The region is central to world economy and peace, and nine countries are key players - the US, China, Japan, India, Germany, the UK, Russia, Australia and France. The geopolitics and geo-economics of the Indo-Pacific will be largely shaped by the interplay of relations among these nations.
- Of paramount importance in the region is the US-China equation. Expect this relationship to be marked by continually adversarial, competitive and cooperative traits.
- Beijing’s south/east China policy, aggressive postures towards Taiwan, human rights violations in Xinjiang, the subjugation of Hong Kong’s citizenry and assertive economic outreach in the Indo-Pacific — these will weigh heavily on US-China relations.

Significance of new groupings in Indo-Pacific: In this standoff, the role of new groupings and individual nations is significant.

- **Role of Quad:** Foremost are the Quad, a strategic partnership between the US, India, Japan and Australia and the militaristic AUKUS (Australia, UK, US).
- **India-Australia ties:** Meanwhile, India and Australia are on track to deepen ties, not only bilaterally but also with the other two Quad powers. The next Quad summit, probably hosted by Japan, will cement the grouping.
- **EU's role:** The EU's Indo-Pacific strategy, announced last September, aims at increasing its economic and security profile in, and linkages with, the region.
- **UK's role:** Only by being more strategic and less mercantilist, more candid and assertive with China, and more cooperative with partners such as India, can the EU — and its former member the UK — hope to become vital players in the Indo-Pacific.
- **ASEAN,** located in the middle of the Indo-Pacific waters, faces the heat of China's aggression and the sharpening great power rivalry. It must enhance its realism and shed its tendency of wishing away problems.

India's obligations:

- ✦ Strengthen the Quad – especially by ensuring that the grouping fulfils its commitment to deliver at least one billion vaccine doses to Indo-Pacific nations by December 2022. India must protect its established relationship with Russia, and show some resilience in dialogue with Beijing.
- ✦ Enhance relations with ASEAN nations: It must enhance cooperation with key Southeast Asian partners —Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand — while humoring ASEAN as a grouping.
- ✦ Give attention to African and Indian Ocean Island states: The eastern and southern planks of Africa and the Indian Ocean Island states need continued high policy attention and financial resources.
- ✦ A clear economic and trade agenda to follow the flag in this vital region, is certain to yield long-term dividends.

Conclusion:

India has done well by fulfilling its humanitarian duties during the pandemic. Learning how to convert them smartly into economic and strategic opportunities in its periphery is the focused task for the nation in 2022.

SNIPPETS

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) Explain the focus areas of the National Security Policy of Pakistan.

Context:

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday launched Pakistan's first-ever National Security Policy (NSP) based on a citizen-centric framework and focusing more on boosting the country's flagging economy and its standing in the world, unlike the previous one-dimensional security policy deeply rooted in the development of military capabilities.

The hundred-page document seeks peace including greater trade with India reportedly even without the final settlement of the Kashmir issue. The major part of the document is reportedly classified.

Themes of NSP:

The main themes of the National Security Policy are:

1. National cohesion
2. Securing an economic future
3. Defence and territorial integrity
4. Internal security
5. Foreign policy in a changing world and human security

Focus areas of the NSP:

- The National Security Policy 2022-2026 centres on the government's vision, which believes that the security of Pakistan rests in the security of its citizens
- The new policy was more focused to strengthen the economy of Pakistan.
- The policy articulates a citizen-centric framework, placing economic security at its core and seeking a secure and economically resilient Pakistan.
- Since its evolution, Pakistan had a one-dimensional security policy where the focus was on the military. For the first time, the National Security Division has developed a consensus document which defines national security in a proper way.
- The foremost aim of Pakistan's foreign policy and military capability will remain peace and stability in the region and beyond.

India and NSP:

- ✓ The new policy highlights disinformation, Hindutva, and the use of aggression for domestic political gains as key threats from India.

- ✓ The policy places the Jammu and Kashmir issue as the core of the bilateral relationship.

Conclusion:

The document covers a five-year span from 2022-26. Pakistan's prime minister said the main aim of the policy was ensure "peace and stability" in the region. The National Security Policy 2022-2026 is Pakistan's first national security policy document, seeking to co-locate the country in emerging global trends and identifies policy objectives and priority areas where Islamabad should invest its national resources to ensure the most beneficial outcomes.

GS-3**ECONOMY**

Q) "Legal guarantee for MSP provides security to farmers against risks of farming and is essential to make a farm viable." Analyse.

Context:

There has been debate on the issue of MSP with some arguing against it while some favouring it.

Arguments against MSP:

- MSP hinders the price discovery: Providing MSP does not allow the market to discover the prices; if market cleared prices are less than MSP, then the only buyer would be the government; this would render the government bankrupt.
- FPO as a mechanism to deal with markets: If markets have any distortions, the way to negotiate it is through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) — as demonstrated by Amul.
- Provide income support through DBT: A better way to address the possible income gap is to give an income support-based direct benefit transfer (DBT).

Role of MSP as price signaling and need to be given as legal guarantee:

- If we were to look at farming, we realise that this exposes itself to disproportionate risks.
- First, there is no stop-loss mechanism after sowing the seed, except for destroying the crop for the season.
- This enterprise not only has the usual business risks but also has the enhanced risk of the force majeure elements that destroy the enterprise — a sudden hailstorm, drought,

unseasonal showers, a pest attack, a locust attack — there are too many things that the farmer cannot control.

- Therefore, an MSP provides a powerful signal to the farmer to exercise the choice of sowing a particular crop because the farmer can back-calculate the expected margin.
- If MSP is a signal that helps the farmer to choose a crop, then it must remain a choice at the harvest time as well.
- The significance of MSP is only when the markets do not clear the price. In such a situation, the farmer gets a return less than the MSP and by this argument we are escorting the farm fraternity towards bankruptcy. A legal guarantee is, therefore, needed.
- The argument that the state will have to procure all the floating stock in the market and may become bankrupt is fallacious.
- The intervention of the state in the markets usually covers information asymmetry, arbitrage and cools the markets when they get overheated.

Way forward

- ✓ Modernise the markets: We need to modernise the markets and storage and processing facilities. There is no point in conflating modernisation with liberalisation.
- Investment: If we need to take Indian agriculture on the path of Amul, we need to start making those investments now.



Q) Consider the following statements with regard to Indian Army Day:

- January 15, every year is celebrated as Indian Army Day, because on this day Lieutenant General KM Cariappa was appointed to the post in 1949.
- The day is celebrated at all army command offices across India as well as the headquarters in Mumbai.
- Indian Army Day marks the celebration of not only the brave soldiers, but also marks the transfer of power from British rule to India.
- The Prime Minister of India is the Supreme Commander of the Army.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A and C
- B and D
- A, C and D
- All of the above



Q) Consider the following statements:

- A. ISRO Headquarters are located at Antariksh Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- B. The first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, was built by the ISRO and launched with the help of the US in 1975.
- C. ISRO was formed in 1962 with a vision to develop and harness space technology in national development, while pursuing planetary exploration and space science research.
- D. ISRO replaced its predecessor, INCOSPAR (Indian National Committee for Space Research).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) B and D
- b) A and C
- c) A, B and C
- d) B, C and D

Answer: c

Explanation:

- ISRO is the pioneer space exploration agency of India, headquartered at Bengaluru.
- ISRO was formed in 1969 with a vision to develop and harness space technology in national development, while pursuing planetary exploration and space science research.
- ISRO replaced its predecessor, INCOSPAR (Indian National Committee for Space Research), established in 1962 by India's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and scientist Vikram Sarabhai, considered amongst the founding fathers of the Indian space program.
- The first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, was built by the ISRO and launched with the help of the Soviet Union on 19th April 1975.
- The year 1980 marked the launch of Rohini, which was the first satellite to be successfully placed in orbit by SLV-3, an Indian made launch vehicle.

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